

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 5, wherein:
the application service configuration information references a software object for processing information associated with the electrical signal, and
the self-configuring application services system further comprises the software object.
3. (Original) The system of claim 2, further comprising an object database storing a version of the software object.
4. (Original) The system of claim 3, wherein the object database forms a portion of an Object Database Management System.
5. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:
a hardware subsystem that includes at least one component adapted to carry an electrical signal associated with one ~~of from the group of~~ a sensing operation and a control operation;
an application database storing application service configuration information that corresponds to a manner of processing information associated with the electrical signal; and
a self-configuring application services system comprising an application services system ~~[[a]]~~ configuration module coupled to the hardware subsystem and coupled to retrieve application service configuration information from the application database, the self-configuring application services system operable to configure itself

for communication with the hardware subsystem using the application service configuration information, this configuration including associating an event code with the electrical signal;

a signal database storing interface communications ~~protocol~~ configuration information corresponding to a manner of managing communication between the hardware subsystem and the self-configuring application services system via a plurality of communication protocols; and

a self-configuring interface system coupled to the hardware subsystem and the application services system and comprising an interface system ~~[[a]]~~ configuration module coupled to retrieve interface configuration information from the signal database and facilitate communication between the hardware subsystem and the self-configuring application services system via a plurality of communication protocols.

6. (Original) The system of claim 5, wherein said interface configuration information further references a software object that corresponds to a manner of processing information associated with the electrical signal.

7. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 6, wherein the self-configuring interface system further comprises the software object.

8. (Original) The system of claim 7, further comprising an object database storing a version of the software object.

9. (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein the object database forms a portion of an Object Database Management System.

10. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 5, wherein the self-configuring interface system communicates with the hardware subsystem in accordance with the electrical signal, and communicates with the self-configuring application services system in accordance with the event code that corresponds to the electrical signal.

11. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 7, wherein the interface system communicates with the hardware subsystem in accordance with the electrical signal, and communicates with the software object and the application services system in accordance with ~~an event~~ the event code that corresponds to the electrical signal.

12. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

- a hardware subsystem that includes a set of components adapted to carry electrical signals, each electrical signal associated with one from the group of a sensing operation and a control operation;
- an application database referencing a first software object that corresponds to a manner of processing information associated with an electrical signal;
- a self-configuring application services system comprising:
 - application services system [[a]] configuration module coupled to the hardware subsystem and coupled to retrieve application service configuration information from the application database; and
 - the first software object;
 - a signal database storing interface communications ~~protocol~~ configuration information corresponding to a manner of managing communication between the hardware subsystem and the self-configuring application services system via a plurality of communication protocols and referencing a second software object

that corresponds to a manner of processing information associated with an electrical signal and associates an event code with the electrical signal; and

a self-configuring interface system coupled to the hardware subsystem and the self-configuring application services system and comprising:

an interface system ~~[[a]]~~ configuration module coupled to retrieve interface configuration information from the signal database and facilitate communication between the hardware subsystem and the self-configuring application services system via a plurality of communication protocols; and

the second software object.

13. (Original) The system of claim 12, further comprising an object database storing one from the group of the first software object and the second software object.

14. (Original) The system of claim 13, wherein the object database forms a portion of an Object Database Management System.

15. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12, further comprising a network coupled to the self-configuring application services system and the self-configuring interface system.

16. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein the network comprises one from the group of a Local Area Network, a Wide Area Network, and the Internet.

17. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12, wherein the self-configuring interface system communicates with the hardware subsystem in accordance with the electrical signal, and communicates with the self-configuring

application services system in accordance with an event code that corresponds to the electrical signal.

18. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12, wherein the self-configuring interface system communicates with the hardware subsystem in accordance with the electrical signal, and communicates with the second software object and the self-configuring application services system in accordance with an event code that corresponds to the electrical signal.

19. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12, wherein the self-configuring interface system further comprises a signal exchange module coupled to the hardware subsystem, the signal exchange module comprising a storage element for storing a hardware signal corresponding to an electrical signal.

20. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12, wherein the self-configuring interface system further comprises:

a signal exchange module coupled to the hardware subsystem, the signal exchange module comprising a storage element for storing a hardware signal corresponding to an electrical signal; and

an event coding-decoding module coupled to map between an electrical signal and an event code.

21. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12, wherein the self-configuring interface system further comprises:

a signal exchange module coupled to the hardware subsystem, the signal exchange module comprising a storage element for storing a hardware signal corresponding to an electrical signal;

an event coding-decoding module coupled to map between an electrical signal and an event code; and

an interprocess communication module coupled to manage event-based communication with the self-configuring application services system.

22. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12, wherein the self-configuring interface system further comprises:

a signal exchange module coupled to the hardware subsystem, the signal exchange module comprising a storage element for storing a hardware signal corresponding to an electrical signal;

an event coding-decoding module coupled to map between an electrical signal and an event code; and

an interprocess communication module coupled to manage event-based communication with the self-configuring application services system and the second software object.

23-28. (Cancelled)

29. (Currently Amended) In a system comprising a hardware subsystem that includes a set of components adapted to carry electrical signals, each electrical signal associated with one ~~of from the group of~~ a sensing operation and a control operation, a method for processing electrical signals comprising ~~the steps of~~:

the system retrieving application service configuration information that associates a first set of software objects with at least one electrical signal;

the system retrieving the first set of software objects in accordance with the application service configuration information;

the system determining a required communications protocol from a plurality of communication protocols and selecting communications protocol interface configuration information based on said determining;

the system retrieving the selected communications ~~protocol~~ interface configuration information that corresponds to the hardware subsystem and which associates a second set of software objects with at least one electrical signal; and

the system automatically generating a hardware interface for managing communication between a [[the]] software object and the hardware subsystem in accordance with the communications ~~protocol~~ interface configuration information, the interface including associating an event code with each electrical signal.

30. (Original) The method of claim 29, wherein the first and second sets of software objects are retrieved from an object database.

31. (Original) The method of claim 29, wherein the first and second sets of software objects are retrieved from an Object Database Management System.

32. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 29, further comprising ~~the step of~~ the system establishing mappings between ~~a set of~~ the electrical signals and ~~a set of~~ the corresponding event codes for ~~these~~ each electrical ~~signals~~ signal associated with a software ~~objects~~ object within the first set of software objects.

33. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 32, further comprising ~~the steps of~~:

the system managing communication between the hardware subsystem and the self-configuring interface system in accordance with the ~~set of~~ electrical signals; and

the system managing communication between the self-configuring interface system and the first set of software objects in accordance with the set of event codes.

34. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 29, further comprising ~~the step of~~ the system establishing mappings between a set of electrical signals and a set of event codes for those electrical signals associated with software objects within the first and second sets of software objects.

35. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 34, further comprising ~~the steps of~~:

the system managing communication between the hardware subsystem and the interface system in accordance with the ~~set of~~ electrical signals; and

the system managing communication between the self-configuring interface system, the first set of software objects, and the second set of software objects in accordance with the ~~set of~~ corresponding event codes.

36. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 29, further comprising ~~the steps of~~:

the system executing program instructions associated with the first set of software objects within a first computer system; and

the system executing program instructions associated with the second set of software objects within a second computer system.

37. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 36, wherein the second computer system includes the hardware interface module.